



San Diego Partners Win National Public Safety Award

MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award honors

San Diego leaders for the first time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego, Calif. (October 26, 2010) – STAR/PAL, the San Diego Police Department, and the County of San Diego Probation Department will be honored with a MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award at a ceremony this Thursday, October 28th at 3 p.m. at STAR/PAL's Center to Serve Youth (4110 54th Street, San Diego CA 92105). Mayor Jerry Sanders, Police Chief William Lansdowne, Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins and other San Diego dignitaries, along with STAR/PAL partners and supporters, will be present to celebrate STAR/PAL's contributions to gang prevention, youth safety and the well-being of the City Heights community. The award ceremony will be followed by a barbecue with STAR/PAL youth participants and an open house at the center.

The national award, sponsored by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognizes partnerships between community organizations and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred positive development in low-income communities. STAR/PAL—which is a joint effort with the San Diego Police Department and the County of San Diego Probation Department—was selected for the honor from more than 700 applicants nationwide. At Thursday's celebration event, Brentt A. Hoover, agency sales director of MetLife and Joe Horiye, executive director of San Diego LISC, will present a \$15,000 award to the partners.

STAR/PAL's organizational infrastructure and programmatic focus exemplify police and community collaboration. By having built its facility in Colina Del Sol Park surrounded by five neighborhood schools in City Heights, STAR/PAL offers a sense of safety to hundreds of youth who walk to and from school. Through a wide array of on-site and off-site youth programs, STAR/PAL promotes crime prevention, community building and leadership development, all under the tutelage of police and probation officers.

"As a former prosecutor with the City of San Diego working in the criminal justice system, I can attest to the critical nature of the work we do at STAR/PAL," said Chandani Flinn, executive director of STAR/PAL. "Teaching our kids about safety issues, civic engagement and the importance of getting involved in enrichment activities pays major dividends. Our organization is truly unique in its ability to bring law enforcement role models together with underserved youth in order to empower them to make positive choices for themselves which ultimately benefits the whole community."

“Collaboration between community-based groups and police departments can reduce crime, stimulate housing and other development and improve quality of life in all communities, especially lower-income neighborhoods,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “The STAR/PAL partnership is an exemplary model for groups nationwide facing similar challenges and opportunities. We are pleased to join LISC in recognizing and sharing this impressive work.”

Public safety is an essential ingredient in building healthy San Diego neighborhoods,” said Horiye. “STAR/PAL has proven itself to be a key player in this area by investing in both City Heights and the future of our children.”

About STAR/PAL: STAR/PAL is a nonprofit organization that provides over 10,000 youth services annually in inner-city neighborhoods throughout the city and county of San Diego. STAR/PAL offers free educational, athletic, and recreational programs which focus on promoting youth safety, positive life choices, and academic success. All STAR/PAL program directors are full-time law enforcement officers who coordinate unique programs and recruit additional law enforcement and community volunteers to work directly with underserved youth. By bringing youth & law enforcement officers together in this manner, STAR/PAL helps build safer communities in the long run. www.starpal.org

About LISC: Since 1980, LISC has served as a catalyst for revitalizing neighborhoods. It has invested more than \$9 billion in capital and technical resources to support the development of healthy and resilient neighborhoods. The San Diego LISC office opened in 1990. As part of LISC’s national operations, the Community Safety Initiative supports strategic alliances between police and community developers to reduce crime, disorder and fear in troubled neighborhoods. LISC has administered the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards since 2002. www.lisc.org

About MetLife Foundation: MetLife Foundation, established by MetLife in 1976, supports health, education, civic and cultural programs. The Foundation is a long-time supporter of LISC’s community revitalization programs. In 1994, the Foundation made a \$1 million leadership grant to pilot the Community Safety Initiative. MetLife and the Foundation have also made below-market rate loans and grants of almost \$90 million to the organization. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

Event Information

MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award Celebration & STAR/PAL Open House

Date/Time: Thursday, October 28th at 3 p.m.

Location: STAR/PAL’s Center to Serve Youth (in Colina Del Sol Park)
4110 54th Street, San Diego CA 92105